

signal is overmodulated by deliberate clipping. Flat-top" and is, therefore, amplitude in an amplitude

ability to uniformly transmit band.

A transmission line that transmits. Also see MATCHED

2. See FLAT-RIBBED

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See FLEMING'S

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**flexible coupling** A device for joining two shafts and conveying rotary motion from one to the other; it is elastic, so the shafts need not be exactly aligned with each other.

**flexible flat cable** See FLAT CABLE.

**flexible manufacturing system** A roboticized manufacturing plant that can turn out a variety of different products. One or more central computers oversee the operation of the facility. Such factories are commonly used in the production of electronic devices (such as printed circuits, calculators, and portable radios).

**flexible resistor** An insulated, wirewound resistor that can be bent, coiled, or knotted.

**flexible shaft** A control shaft that can be bent somewhat while still allowing easy adjustment.

**flexibility** A measure of how much bending a conductor or other flexible object can take without breaking.

**flexible diode** A diode that is flexible in that its junction can be changed (i.e., reversed without reversing leads, its resistance being variable from the forward-to-backward-resistance value).

**flexible image** 1. A tendency for a video image to appear, disappear, and reappear, or to increase and decrease in intensity frequently. 2. The effect created by such action (as in a flickering light).

**frequency** The number of times the illumination flashes on and off in the projection of a motion picture. It is 48 per second (the frame rate) in conventional movie projectors; for each frame, the screen is blanked when the frame is pulled into position and again during projection of the frame.

**frequency control** Electronic monitoring and control of flight in flight.

**frequency course** The course planned for an aircraft's flight.

**frequency computer** A computer that controls the flight of an aircraft in flight, from takeoff to landing.

**frequency deviation** The departure of an aircraft from the course in the flight plan. GHT PATH.

**frequency meter** An instrument that gives visual indication of the departure of flight from the course in the flight plan.

**frequency servicer** A remotely controlled machine to maintain and repair space vehicles. The machine can be controlled by a computer program or by a human operator. Most sophisticated machines can perform TELEMANAGEMENT and/or TELEPRESENCE and can perform dangerous work placed at personal risk.

**frequency test** Airborne electronic equipment test. 2. Any test made as in 1.

**magnetic compass**, a inclin bar

the vertical component (inclination) of the earth's magnetic field. The bar acts differently in different geo-

graphic locations, because the inclination varies from place to place. Inclination is greatest near the geomagnetic poles, and is zero at the geographic equator.

**flint glass** A hard, bright, lead glass. Dielectric constant, 7 to 9.9. Dielectric strength, 30 to 150 kV/mm. Also see GLASS.

**flip chip** A monolithic semiconductor device (such as a diode, transistor, or integrated circuit), in which bead-like terminals are provided on one face of the chip for bonding.

**flip-chip bonding** A scheme for making connections between a semiconductor chip and a header, in which leads are not run between chip and header. Instead, bead-like projections are electrodeposited as terminals around one face of the chip, which is then registered with the header terminals and bonded to them.

**flip-flop** 1. See BISTABLE MULTIVIBRATOR. 2. A two-position relay that locks in alternate positions upon receiving successive actuating pulses.

**flip-flop key** In a video display, a key that, when pressed, allows viewing of one half of the screen and then the other.

**flip-flop memory** A bistable computer memory that stores bits of data as flip-flop states.

**flip-flop relay** See BISTABLE RELAY.

**float charging** The constant charging of a storage battery, keeping the battery at or near the fully charged state at all times.

**floatated battery** A storage battery connected in parallel with a generator, which supplies the load; the battery, always completely charged, helps during high-current demands.

**floating** 1. To float a storage battery; see FLOAT.

2. An ungrounded device or device that is not connected to a source of voltage. 3. Not loaded or driven. 4. Not fixed in position. 5. A dedicated ground connection that remains isolated from the common circuit ground.

**floating address** See RELATIVE ADDRESS.

**floating charge** See TRICKLE CHARGE.

**floating control** 1. A potentiometer, such as a gain control, installed with its shaft insulated from ground and, accordingly, subject to body-capacitance effects. 2. A type of automatic control in which the rate of final control element movement depends on the amount that the controlled variable deviates from a prescribed value.

**floating ground** See FLOATING, 5.

**floating input** An ungrounded input circuit.

**floating-input measurement** See DIFFERENTIAL-INPUT MEASUREMENT.

**floating instrument** An instrument whose signal terminals are above ground.

**floating I/O port** An input/output (I/O) terminal that is not loaded or being driven.

**floating junction** A junction (in a semiconductor device, for example), that has no net current flowing through it.